DADE COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 5, 2008

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Okay. According to my watch and the clock on the back wall, it's 7:00, time to start the meeting. Before we start the meeting, we'll do as we always do and we will have an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance and I would like to call on Robert Goff to lead us in both

> (Thereupon, the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

MR. BRANDON: This is the regularly scheduled meeting of the Dade County Commission which takes place at the same time on the first Thursday of every month. Proper notice of this meeting was given to the legal organ of Dade County and has been posted in the hallway of the Administration Building. I'll call the roll and have it recorded by the clerk. Mr. Lowery?

Here.

MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

Here.

MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

MR. YOUNG: Here.

MR. BRANDON: And the chair is present.

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We have a forum and, therefore, a legal meeting.

Reading of the minutes of the May 2008 regular meeting will not be required since all Commissioners have been furnished copies in advance. The minutes are public record and available for review in the county manager's office. The minutes are included in the consent agenda. At this time, I would like to ask the clerk to read all the other items that are also in the consent agenda, please.

MR. TOWNSEND: The regular agenda as amended, approval of previous meeting minutes, the approval of the following appointments, new employees hired since May 1st, 2008, Mr. Howard Doyle for a three-year term to the Board of Assessors replacing Lorraine Fox's expiring term, appointment of Dr. Billy Pullen, Region 1 EMS Board for a two-year term replacing Scott Ratiker's expiring term, appointment of Mrs. Diane Rumley to DFCS Board for a five-year term, Mr. Buddy Stevens to the Alcohol Beverage and Control Board to a three-year terms. Invoices for the month of May or June, I should say, Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association proclamation and health care service contract for the Dade County jail inmates awarded to Southern Health Partners through

1	12/31/08.
2	MR. BRANDON: Good enough. Thank you
3	very much. To approve the consent agenda, it
4	requires a vote. Do I have a motion to approve the
5	consent agenda?
6	MR. PITTMAN: I make a motion we
7	approve the consent agenda.
8	MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Is
9	there a second?
10	MR. LOWERY: Second.
11	MR. BRANDON: I'll call the roll.
12	Mr. Young?
13	MR. YOUNG: Yes.
14	MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?
15	MS. MOORE: Yes.
16	MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?
17	MR. PITTMAN: Yes.
18	MR. BRANDON: Mr. Lowery?
19	MR. LOWERY: Yes.
20	MR. BRANDON: And the chair votes yes.
21	Moving on into administrative matters, we have
22	Commissioners' district reports and I think Ms.
23	Moore is the only one who said she had one. I'll
24	call on her at this time.
25	MS. MOORE: Okay. A lot of times we

used to have the public works director that would tell what roads and bridges or whatever they had worked on, but we just received a call from Head River and they were wanting some work done on their roads out there and they were wanting more of the chipping and tarring, but we were unable to do that, but we did go out and work on Alsobrook Road, Long Branch Road, Griff Johnson Road, Gordon Forester Road, Head River Ranch and graded and regraveled all that and filled in the ditches just this week.

And in Piney we replaced the guardrails where there had been an accident there on Burkhalter Gap Road and the bridges have been inspected and the plans are to repave over the bridge there at Piney and along with the help of the Georgia Department of Transportation working with Billy Massengale and that had been going on for quite some time in trying to decide whether it was the County right-of-way or the State right-of-way, but determined it was the State right-of-way and finally got that Brow Lake Road tile fixed there at the intersection of Scenic Highway and the County went out the very next day and put coal mix in the holes there and smoothed that down.

Krupski Loop, we had a lot of

complaints about Krupski Loop and a lot of college people that were blocking the roads and couldn't get anyone in and out with ambulances or even a fire truck if you needed to. So that's really a state law that they cannot block your right-of-ways there and our sheriff did go out and talk with a lot of them there to try to get that matter corrected. But while he was there, he noticed that the cross drains were stopped up and the ditches and the tiles needed to be cleaned and they cut all the limbs out of the right-of-way. So those of you that live there or go by there will find out it does look a little bit better.

And just this month, they did go out around all the mailboxes up there and filled it in with gravel and tar mix. And I believe also they have mowed in all of the communities on the mountain, mowed all the right-of-ways and the ditches have been cleaned out and I rode around with the public works director and saw that all of that has been done. So there has been a lot of work that's been going on in the county with our public works director and our employees and I really commend them for the work they're doing.

MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Ms. Moore. I

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have a couple of things in executive update just very briefly. One of them, I wanted to remind the candidates that if you have signs that are on the county right-of-way, as we come around and mow, they will probably take your sign up if it's on the county right-of-way so they can mow because it's too much trouble to pull a sign up and mow and then put the sign back. So if you've got signs on the county right-of-way and they disappear, you might check down at the maintenance barn and they can be picked up down there. And the state will do the same thing, by the way, because four years ago, if you put them out one day, the next day they would be gone and if you put them out again, they would be gone two days later. So they would always end up in the same place, so be careful where you put your signs if you're campaigning.

The other thing that Lamar wanted to remind me to bring this up, it was a really nice service that was kind of above and beyond the call of duty. Bruce Castleberry and Alex Case, we had a problem with the flag pole over by the old courthouse. It had — the rope had jumped off the pully up at the top and we hadn't been able to put the flag up for some time. So the two of them got

together and went over there and took the City's ladder truck and fixed the flag pole. So that was -- that was really a good gesture and we appreciate the City allowing Alex to do that and got that working again, so now we can raise the flag again. We really appreciate them doing that.

Next up under appearances, do we have anybody from the City of Trenton here this evening?

MR. CERVELLI: The mayor didn't come.

MR. BRANDON: Which one?

MR. CERVELLI: The current one.

 $$\operatorname{MR}.$$ BRANDON: Oh, the current one, the interim mayor.

All right. Moving on to item number four under fiscal matters, I'll ask Don to read us the financial report, please.

MR. TOWNSEND: As you can see, we have a power point system now with a screen. Last month I believe it was mentioned that the public would like to see some of the numbers that I call out, so very soon we'll have that working. They just installed it the last two days, so be patient with us, but it should be a little bit better. We're just entering the budget season, so that will be a lot of fun that we'll all get to enjoy here in the

next three months or so, the budget process.

Hopefully, we can use this so everybody will be on the same page as we go through the budget. I just wanted to point that out. We put it intentionally right over Scottie and Lamar's head.

 $$\operatorname{MR.}$$ BRANDON: The quick release is right up there.

MR. TOWNSEND: Drug education fund, \$73,082; federal asset fund, \$10,875; special sheriff's fund, \$45,557; jail fund, \$7,440; juvenile services fund, \$12,307; victim assistance fund, \$1,722; payroll, 72,838; general fund, \$500,388. Those are all balances as of May 31st.

Principal and interest account with our S.P.L.O.S.T funds, 1,277,565; principal and interest CDs, 450,000; capital bond, 633,941; capital bond CDs, 200,000. It continues to shrink because we're slowly moving that money from CDs into the checking account in order to expense that money hopefully very soon with the new court facility.

The following page is balances for the principal and interest CDs and capital CDs and page three is the redeemed and renewed certificates.

Page five is the Dade County income statement as of April 30th, the balance sheet as of April 30th.

Revenues, we have -- with 41.67 percent of the year,

revenues attained so far this year is 44.02 percent.

Expenses is 37.34 percent. So, again, that's good.

41 percent of the year, 42 percent. 44 percent

revenues. That's a little higher than the budget.

Expenses are a little lower than the budget and that's a good thing.

We've been averaging at the bottom.

You see revenues less expenses for May, a little

over -- right around \$200,000 that we've been using

out of our account per month versus just the

revenues coming in and expensing those revenues. So

it's down a little bit. It's only 116,000 this

month. That's a good sign. Revenues less expenses

year-to-date is \$623,332.

know, we may be looking at a tax anticipation note, and that's not to put the fear in anyone. I know there was some questions about that last month, but that's something that usually county government goes through every summer when the tax funds for the year dry up, meaning we've taken most of our tax revenues between November and January 1st, November 1st and January 1st and the budget runs January 1st through December 31st. So unless we have some other

funds that come in through grants or courts or whatever, those funds traditionally dry up. About October 1st, we'll start bringing in more money. Also in October we will be receiving our insurance premium tax. That's collected throughout the year by the State of Georgia and it's sent to us in one lump sum. If they send it to us a little earlier, we may not have to have that tax anticipation note, but like the State, they like to keep that money and make the interest off of it. So we'll be getting that. Traditionally it's been running about 600 to \$700,000, so we should -- we're looking okay. Hopefully, we won't have to have a tax anticipation loan. I'm just giving fair warning.

The general fund is now down to 500,000, half a million. So it is -- you know, it's just like any other year, it's going down, but the good thing is the local option sales tax and the special purpose local option sales tax, we did see a turn this time for the first time in about four months. It's up over what we collected last year. I think last year we were 188,000, something like that. It's 200,000 this month, so that's good. Some of our local businesses have told me that their business has actually been up the months of March,

April and May, especially May. So we're hopefully seeing a little bit of a turn and hopefully it will stick. Just remember to shop local.

MR. BRANDON: Just to expand on what Don was talking about there, one of the -- on the tax anticipation note, if you don't have a sufficient reserve in the summer when it starts getting -- when your normal revenue sources drop, then you're going to always do that. So that's why in the budget process, you always need to make sure you have enough of a reserve fund set aside to avoid having to go borrow money and last year we probably -- I don't know what the cost of the money we borrowed for such a short time last year was, but it wasn't all that egregious, but if you can anticipate this in advance, you're better off.

However, one of the things that's hitting us really hard this year is fuel costs.

It's sort of a double-edged sword. I mean, on one side, it's costing us an enormous more to buy fuel than we did, but we're collecting a little bit more on sales tax, not a whole lot, not enough to offset it, but it does offset a little.

MR. TOWNSEND: Budgeted for the month of May was \$14,861 for gasoline and actually we

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spent \$19,500 and we actually built in a rather substantial increase last year to accommodate this year. Apparently, not enough. And, of course, that's true everywhere. That's almost \$5,000 short and that's just for one month.

MR. BRANDON: Okay. Thank you, Don. One more thing, I'll jump back and take the chairman's prerogative and something that I should have mentioned and I didn't. I don't know why I forgot this because I'm intimately involved in it. We -- the Fred A. Morgan American Legions Post 106 had elections last month and for the first time in the history of the American Legion in Dade County, we now have a female commander as the commander of the American Legion Post, Ms. Beverly Hawkins. is the daughter of Mr. Briney Bethune. She's going to do a great job. She's already involved in that. We encourage all of you to, if you see her, congratulate her and if you're not doing anything on Friday and Saturday night, come on down and play bingo with us because we need the money.

Moving along on legal matters, I'll ask the county attorney for an update on our lawsuit.

Do you know anything different from the last time?

MR. ROGERS: There have been no new

1 developments on that, on either the Blevins litigation or Christina Holmes. 2 3 MR. BRANDON: Do you think any of these 4 will be solved in our lifetime? MR. ROGERS: I do. In fact, I would have anticipated we would have had a hearing 6 scheduled this past month and I do think that will 7 8 occur this next month. 9 MR. BRANDON: Now, if this goes to a 10 jury trial, it will be held in Dade County? 11 MR. ROGERS: I don't anticipate this 12 will go to a jury trial because there's really no factual issues. They're all legal issues which are 13 decided by the judge, so I don't anticipate a jury 14 15 trial. 16 MR. BRANDON: Okay. I'll ask the clerk 17 if we have any unfinished business? 18 MR. TOWNSEND: No. 19 MR. BRANDON: Under new business, we 20 have the final reading of Home Rule Ordinance 06-05-08. I'll ask the county attorney to read that 21 22 This will be the last time, and use your microphone, if you would, please, sir. 23 24 MR. ROGERS: It's the Home Rule 25 Ordinance to amend local acts regarding the Dade

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County Commission's authority to recommend appointments to independent boards, agencies and bodies. Whereas Article 9, Section 2, Paragraph 1 of the Georgia Constitution grants counties and municipalities Home Rule powers authorizing them to amend or repeal the local acts applicable to the governing authority of the county or municipality; and whereas, an act creating the Board of Commissioners and Chairperson/County Executive as the local governing authority of Dade County, Georgia, was approved April 4, 1991, and amended particularly by an act approved May 1, 2002; and whereas, Section 9, Paragraph A, Paragraph 23 of the 1991 Act vests in the Board of Commissioners power to make appointments to independent boards, agencies and bodies from recommendations of the Board, Chairperson/County Executive; and whereas, the Board of Commissioners deems it to be in the best interest of Dade County to empower the Board of Commissioners to consider and make appointments to independent boards, agencies, and bodies from the recommendations of the Chairperson/County Executive or any member of the Board of Commissioners; and whereas, in accordance with the Home Rule provisions of Article 9, Section 2, Paragraph 1(b)(1) of the

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Georgia Constitution, the Board of Commissioners desires to amend by ordinance the local acts and to empower the Commission to make appointments to independent boards, agencies and bodies from the recommendations of the Chairperson/County Executive or any member of the Board of Commissioners. Now, therefore, be it ordained that Section 9(a) (23) of 1991 act of the local acts shall be amended by deleting in full the existing provisions and replacing the same with the following: Paragraph 23, to make appointments to independent boards, agencies, and bodies from the recommendations of the Chairperson/County Executive or any member of the Board of -- or of any member of the Board of Commissioners. This amendment is to be effective upon its adoption at two regular meeting of the Dade County Board of Commissioners. All provisions in the local act not specifically amended by this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect. Passed and adopted on this 1st day of May and 5th day of June, 2008.

MR. BRANDON: Okay. Do I have a motion that we pass this Ordinance 06-05-08?

MR. PITTMAN: I'll make that motion.

MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Is

there a second?

MS. MOORE: I'll second.

MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? I'll call the roll. Mr. Young?

MR. YOUNG: Yes.

MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

MS. MOORE: Yes.

MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

MR. BRANDON: Mr. Lowery?

MR. LOWERY: Yes.

 $$\operatorname{MR.}$$ BRANDON: And the chair votes no. The motion passes.

Next up we had another issue that was carried over from the work session dealing with the replacement of the roof on the old courthouse. The issue is that it leaks like a sieve, to put it bluntly. We are in a position where it is on the National Registry of Historic Places, although it's not — it's got a lot of parts that aren't historic anymore. But anything you do to it is expensive and that includes replacing the roof and replacing the roof on an old building is not really as simple as you would hope it would be because anything you're

doing with old buildings like that are always going to cost more. The decision before the Commission was to -- whether or not to hire a firm to help us design -- come up with the specs to go out for request for proposal for somebody else to put the roof on the building.

Now, the quote that we got from -- what section was that under, Sarah, seven? The quote that we got from this one architectural firm was \$23,670 and that's just to tell us how to -- for them to write the RFP so we can get bids to put the roof on there, \$23,670. So we had some discussion at the work session and we couldn't get a consensus to put it on the consent agenda. So that's why we brought it up in the regular meeting.

So the issue before us now is whether or not to hire the firm of Lord Aeck Sargent to come up with this plan and to pay them for that service \$23,670. Do I have a motion that we do that?

MS. MOORE: Well, I guess there would be some discussion.

MR. BRANDON: We'll have some discussion after we have a motion and a second.

 $$\operatorname{MS.\ MOORE}$: I'll make the motion that we do this.

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MR. BRANDON: Is there a second? Hearing no second, the motion fails for lack of a second.

We will -- now, what I would recommend without just letting it die, because we have to do something, is that we go out and get other bids and ask this same company to also rebid on coming up with the specs to have this done because what we've done here is we've picked one company and asked them for a bid and they didn't have any competition just like the radio issue that we talked about in the work session. You're always going to bid more if you know you're the only one bidding and you've got it locked in.

So what I would recommend is that we get another company, another architectural firm that deals with historic buildings and get another bid and have these folks resubmit as well and we can take it up again at the next meeting.

MS. MOORE: Could I say something about that?

MR. BRANDON: Certainly.

MS. MOORE: Jack Pyburn, the one that gave us this is the one that did the original one on the courthouse and there's a lot of brick damage at

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the courthouse now, a lot of water infiltration that has gone throughout the whole building there and at a later date, it's all going to have to be replaced inside, but to seal the bricks and get the bricks like they need to be, needs to be, that needs to be looked into even before the roof can be fixed because you need to get all of that structure underway.

And on the project understanding here, it -- of course, the flashing, which we've heard many, many times and affixed many, many times and I've been over there many, many times with all the water leaks and the damages and I would just think that -- and in this proposal they were talking about getting -- when the bid is written up, to do not only just the roof, but the brick work and the flashing and all of that, that it's done correctly and because that has been going on and on for the last 25 years and it needs to be stopped and it needs to be done correctly and they were going to -according to this, even when they prepare the bids for the final analysis for what needs to be done, they would also come on site and make sure and follow up with them that it's being done properly.

And there is a grant -- also who met

with us was Dan Latham with Coosa Valley and there is a grant available that could help us pay the cost of this. Maybe -- I don't know if it would be a 60/40 or what, but he was pretty sure we could probably get that grant to help us pay that cost, which we have about \$200,000 left in our last S.P.L.O.S.T for the courthouse for 2004 and it would come out of those funds.

But every time they've put a roof on there, they've still had the same problems, the same brick structure failure, flashing and we've just spent thousands of dollars and I just think it's time and this is not a new person. Jack Pyburn was the original one of this who has the original plan of the whole building. It's not just somebody out of the blue that came. But this has got -- also the windows will need to be replaced at a later date. Water damage has come down into the windows and if you want to stick to the same historic preservation, you need to go back to different kinds of windows at a later date and there are grants available out there and I think the deadline on this one, was it July, Don? And we need to apply for it right away to try to get -- just to pay for this to do it in a professional manner and that's just where I'm coming

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from on this.

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MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Ms. Moore. We're up to item number eight.

MR. LOWERY: Now that she brought that up, do we need to instruct our clerk to go ahead and apply for that grant?

MR. BRANDON: I don't think we need to vote on applying for the grant. That's just something we do as a matter of course.

We're up to citizen participation. Is there anyone who would like to address your fellow citizens? Seeing no hands and there being no further -- oh, I'm sorry.

MS. REYNOLDS: Actually, I would like to address the Commissioners. The incident with Shaw this week kind of brought to light the fine line we walk between losing jobs and increased costs and everything and I would like to bring before the Commissioners and have them publicly talk and do whatever they do behind the scenes about keeping our expenses, county expenses present and future, long-term expenses under control with the way the economy is going. I think everybody is pretty aware that everybody's expenses are going up, things we can't control and we can't really count on

collecting a lot of sales tax. It's kind of a double-edged sword like Mr. Brandon said earlier. You pay more for stuff so you create more sales tax, but in the long run people are going to have less money to spend, so you're going to eventually collect less sales tax and the projects on S.P.L.O.S.T are long-term projects that the property owners have to maintain once they're put into place and I think the citizens would like to hear from the Commissioners how they're going to keep things under in this poor economy that Shaw really brought to light and we kind of dodged the bullet on that one, but there's another one coming right behind it.

MR. BRANDON: Thank you. One of the things -- I should have mentioned this as well.

We -- there were some people who did a lot of work on the Shaw issue. I met with Peter Cervelli, spoke with Jeff Mullis. They deserve a lot of credit for taking the initiative to try to help save this. I think -- and I've told Peter this and I'm sure he wouldn't mind if I shared it with you. I hope that what we did made a difference in their decision not to close this plaint, but I think more than anything, we got lucky because Shaw Industries is owned by Burkshire Hathoway, which is owned by

Mr. Buffet, Warren Buffet, one of the richest men in the world, and the amount of money that we kicked in, I don't know if it made a decision for them financially. I'm sure it made some kind of an emotional impact that showed our commitment to Shaw by keeping them here, but I think more than anything is that they may have made a decision in our favor anyway. It certainly didn't hurt what we did, but Peter and Senator Mullis deserve a lot of credit in taking the initiative to do that, but I think we got lucky and I think that Joanne is right and we need to be cognizant of the spending because when you are doing a S.P.L.O.S.T, what you don't want to do is build long-term projects with short-term money.

Anything that you do, if it's pass paving a road or buying a patrol car, you've got expenses ongoing tied up in that that you've got to make sure you have a commitment to in the out years in future years. So you need to make sure that you're not, again, building long-term projects with short-term money that's going to run out and then you still have to maintain it down the road and I agree with you 100 percent.

Anyone else? Seeing no other hands, nobody else?

MR. LOWERY: We're not allowed to talk about the S.P.L.O.S.T projects too much, are we, the S.P.L.O.S.T. tax itself, why we did what we did?

MR. ROGERS: Are you talking about the S.P.L.O.S.T that's being voted on July 15? You can talk about what's on the S.P.L.O.S.T, but you can't advocate as a Commissioner, you know, to approve it or not to approve it.

MS. MOORE: Well, one thing about it, I know that I've had a lot of questions and a lot of people have asked -- did you want to talk?

MR. LOWERY: No. I'm sorry, Sarah.

MS. MOORE: And they say, well, why aren't you advertising it, why aren't you out there talking about it? And as you just heard, the Commissioners can't go out and pay money out of county funds to advertise, but we can come out as an individual and talk about it. But one thing that is being worked on possibly -- well, not possibly. They are being worked on, getting brochures out so that the public will be aware of what all of those projects are and those projects, I'm sure, will be listed again in the media and also everyone could have access to a brochure that will be talking about it. We can't -- I understand we can't go out and

actually promote it, but other groups can. Is that the way I'm understanding it? So it's just the law that we can't advertise, but we can come out and like write a letter to the editor or something like that and discuss what they are is the way ${\tt I}$ understand it. MR. ROGERS: In your individual capacity, but not as a Commissioner. MS. MOORE: Not as a Commissioner. Okay. MR. BRANDON: Okay. There being no further business before this Commission, we stand adjourned. Thank you. END OF MEETING

1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF TENNESSEE)
3	COUNTY OF HAMILTON)
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5	I, Erin M. Flatt, Court Reporter and
6	Notary Public, in and for Hamilton County and the
7	State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that
8	I reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had
9	in the above-styled cause on the _5H_ day of
10	June , 2008;
11	That the said proceedings were
12	reduced to typewriting under my personal supervision;
13	and that the foregoing is a transcript of said
14	proceedings.
15	This the 30th day of June, 2008.
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20	Eun M. Flatt
21	Erin M. Flatt, Notary Public in and for the State of
22	Tennessee at Large. My commission expires
23	November 7, 2010.
24	